



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Backcountry Skier Rescued Near Taggart Lake

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued an injured backcountry skier near the west shore of Taggart Lake on Saturday evening, February 18. Jackson, Wyoming resident, Ann Mattson, age 42, injured her leg while skiing in Avalanche Canyon and was unable to ski out to the Taggart Lake trailhead on the Teton Park Road.

Mattson fell and seriously injured her right leg about 3:30 Saturday afternoon while she was telemark skiing with a companion near the forks of Avalanche Canyon. After assessing her condition, Mattson and her companion realized that she could not ski the remainder of the way to the trailhead. Consequently, at 4 p.m. Mattson's companion used a cell phone to make a 911 call.

Park rangers organized a rescue operation that included using snowmobiles to reach Mattson on the far shore of Taggart Lake before subzero temperatures set in for the night. In the meantime, Mattson and her skiing companion fashioned a makeshift splint to stabilize her leg. They met up with three other skiers who were in the vicinity, and the group helped Mattson as she tried to ski further. Using the temporary splint and the assistance of the other skiers, Mattson was able to work her way down Avalanche Canyon for approximately two miles before a change in terrain made it difficult to continue.

Rangers reached Mattson at 7:20 p.m. and placed her in a rescue sled towed behind a snowmobile. After rangers transported her to the trailhead, Mattson was driven by private vehicle to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for treatment of her injuries.

Rangers credited Mattson, her companion, and the other backcountry skiers with their emergency self-rescue work.

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